

# Finding God As the World Crumbles



by  
 *Lowly Lily*

## *Which way can an honest seeker turn to find God?*

Today's world is filled to the brim with uncertainty. Catastrophic events seem to be happening all around us in biblical proportions. Many among us understand this reality and are looking for the way to find God as the bible seems to be taking shape all around us.

There are so many 'one-way signs' out there that it's nearly impossible for the average person to tell which way to go to find God. When people outside the religious institutions endeavor to find God today they run up against a considerable number of valid questions.

This book will quickly zero in on some of the answers to these questions to the best of the author's ability. I'm not a pastor, only a songwriter who has lived most of my life in churches that taught the *bible*, the *rapture*, and how to be what we call *saved* or *born again*. I will try my best to explain the language most Christians understand and most others do not.

Walk with me, and if you will, asking God to show you His opinion and to open your heart to His heart as I discuss these things briefly; before it's too late; and we have no more time for finding God as the world crumbles.

# FINDING GOD AS THE WORLD CRUMBLES

By

Lowly Lily

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*Because of God’s tender mercy,  
the morning light from heaven  
is about to break upon us*

Luke 1:78  
(The Bible, NLT)

*In the same way,  
when you see all these things taking place,  
you can know that his return is very near,  
right at the door.*

Mark 13:29  
(NLT)

*Seek the Lord while you can find him.  
Call on him now while he is near.*

Isaiah 55:6  
(NLT)

*The Lord is like a father to his children,  
tender and compassionate to those who [revere] him.*

Psalms 103:13  
(NLT)

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## Music and Music Videos by Lowly Lily

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## INTRODUCTION

*Finding God Today*

In today’s world, finding God can seem impossible. There are a large number of religious books, ideas, institutions and people, all saying, “This is the way.” Among my published music videos, one of the most popular songs has been “Crossroad,” which tells of confusion in trying to find the Lord when people encounter so many ‘one-way signs.’ Among the top-ten criteria on the Christian website’s search engine is the phrase, “Confused about God.” People are searching for God; and it is easy to see why they find it difficult to find Him. Chaos in the world can add to the confusion.

There are so many churches, books and even versions of the bible to choose from, it can be difficult to discern the main theme of Christianity. Many people have never experienced, and some have never heard, the basics tenets of the message of Christ: Love. And the gift of eternal life offered—to anyone—in love.

Some words and phrases we Christians use can seem very confusing to people from outside the churches. I remember hearing the question, “Have you accepted Christ?” and being very offended. My immediate internal dialog was: *Why would I be in a church if I hadn’t accepted that Jesus was the Christ? Of course I believe He’s the Christ.* This isn’t what the phrase means. It took me a long time to figure that out.

While the world takes on more readily seen biblical overtones, and those living within our world can see those overtones, where can we search for and find God?

There is a way. The bible teaches us through many quotations located throughout the bible that God has a particular way. That way has little to do with being good and more to do with a simple choice we make. The truth is, however, that some might not have the opportunity to finish reading this book before the Lord returns and any such chance is gone.

If we are searching for God, it can help greatly to ask the Lord to lead us as we search and read. Jesus told us to ask His Father (God) for all we need, *in His (Jesus) name*.<sup>1</sup> The Lord said such prayers would be answered.<sup>1</sup> We can ask in His name by simply adding the words “in Jesus’ name I ask” to our prayers.

It would also be helpful to ask God to reveal who He is and what He’s like, and to reveal who Jesus is and what Jesus is all about. We can also ask Him to reveal His love for us. Remember, He loves us all. He’s offered us a tremendous gift called eternal life. All we have to do is reach out and accept it. (I’ll explain what this means in detail).

If you’d like to begin reading the bible, I recommend starting with the New Testament. Today’s bible is broken down into two segments called the Old Testament (written before Jesus’ birth) and New Testament (written after Jesus’ birth). Each Testament is comprised of writings or letters which we call ‘books’ of the Bible. These books are broken down by chapters and then numbered verses. The chapter and verse markings were added for the ease of finding specific quotations long after the original letters and writings were compiled. The bible itself was written over thousands of years by many different authors. All have been attributed as inspired by the Spirit of God.<sup>2</sup>

There are many very good versions of the bible available today. Choosing a version can be difficult. Finding one that is a *translation* rather than a *paraphrase* is the more accurate way to learn what was originally said. Choosing a bible that is easy to understand is also preferable. I’d like to recommend the purchase of a New Testament or a New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs. I’d also like to recommend beginning bible reading, by starting from the *Gospel of John* and reading through to the end of the New Testament, *Revelation*.

The first four books of the New Testament are called Gospels. They each tell the story of the life of Christ from the perspectives of four different writers. The Gospel of John is the fourth of these books. *John* can be somewhat ethereal. If you prefer a more straight-up approach, I recommend beginning with the book of *Matthew*, then skipping *Mark*, *Luke* and *John* (the first time through), and reading through the rest of the New Testament. Of course anyone can read whatever they please.



Asking God to help us decide where to read first is a precious way to begin our interaction with the Lord God Himself.

Searching for God can be a highly rewarding endeavor. The rewards He gives are eternal. As well, the discoveries concerning Him can be phenomenal. Don't give up. God is a wonderful, lovable Person. Getting to know Him is well worth the search.

## CHAPTER ONE

*We All Seem to Be in a Frustrating Funk*

Nowhere is it more obvious that the world is crumbling than in the news. If it hasn't already happened, it seems it's about to happen. I've heard so much bad news lately that I've almost had to turn off the news entirely, just to keep my sanity intact.

Yet the bible tells us that as these very things begin to happen we're only experiencing the initial 'birth pangs' of what's eventually going to happen.<sup>1</sup> The bible calls the period of time to come the *Tribulation*. It's an old word that comes from the word *trouble*. According to Jesus, it will be a “time of trouble such as the world has never seen nor will [this level of trouble] ever be seen again.”<sup>2</sup>

This *trouble* (or *Tribulation*) is a serious reality on the verge of happening. Some of us have already lost houses and lands, livelihoods and possibly even the lives of friends or family. Yet this is nothing compared to what will happen just after Jesus *raptures* (or *catches up*)<sup>36</sup> into the clouds) those people who know the Lord.<sup>3</sup>

The truth is those who know Christ could be raptured at any second. This probability is evidenced by the fulfillment of bible prophecies in the current signs of the times. Most of the things the bible prophesied would happen *just before* Jesus raptures His church have already happened. Much of what was prophesied would happen *after* the rapture is about to happen according to what newscasters and scientists everywhere are saying. This includes certain technological advances. All of these things were foretold sometimes far more than 2,000 years ago.

The signs of the times<sup>4</sup> are everywhere. Jesus told us we cannot know the day or the hour He will come.<sup>5</sup> But He also said we could know the signs that He's almost ready to rapture His people.<sup>6</sup>

I don't know about anyone else, but as this world fades and things crumble, I want to be prepared to meet God face to face. Only God can judge. Yet the bible tells me I can know He will judge me in a way that will be at least somewhat favorable.<sup>7</sup> And according to the bible, that

judgment will be only partially based on what I’ve done.<sup>8</sup> Getting there in the first place requires something entirely different than being a good person.<sup>5</sup> It requires trusting someone who has already done the good deeds for us<sup>9</sup> (and who has already taken the punishment for the things we’ve done wrong<sup>10</sup>)—that Person is Christ Jesus.

What if I said that the time we have is *probably* all the time we need to receive our ‘ticket to heaven’ when Jesus returns? What if I said, all we need to do is trust God; but that we have to trust in a specific way. God’s way. The Bible’s way. Jesus Himself said the words.<sup>11</sup>

What if I said that what we *do* have to do is imperative.<sup>12</sup> It’ll make the difference, according to the bible, between complete success and utter failure.<sup>13</sup> It will make the difference between life, eternal life, and death.<sup>14</sup>

According to the bible, the way is clear. It has to do with a debt we owe God for whatever we’ve done wrong. Jesus paid our debt for us. In fact, He paid the debt for everyone on earth.<sup>37</sup> The concept is found in a story given below. It is not my own; I’m borrowing it from a course I took in showing people how to be *born again*.<sup>15</sup>

The story goes something like this...

Let’s say I had a bill being collected for several trillion dollars. Without paying that bill, the collectors were going to take every asset I held. My assets totaled just under \$100 billion, but every cent I owned wasn’t nearly enough to pay my debt. With all I had earned in this life, and as rich as I had been, I was still looking at the prospect of absolute poverty. Just as I was about to give up entirely, in love and compassion, God looked down, saw my situation and made me an offer. He offered to pay my bill for me—free and clear.

Most people believe the criteria for getting into heaven is what we’ve done or how good we’ve been. However, the bible says that there is nothing good we can do that will get us into heaven.<sup>17</sup> It is the *gift* of God not a result of good things we do.<sup>18</sup> His gift is the *new birth* (or being born as a child of God) through Christ Jesus.<sup>19</sup>

Over and over again, God says eternal life is His gift. "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord,"<sup>14</sup> "not by works of righteousness (good deeds) which we have done,"<sup>15</sup> "it is by grace (an undeserved gift) you are saved (from death), through faith..."<sup>16</sup> "it is the gift of God, not a result of (good) works..."<sup>16</sup> "but to as many as received Him, He *gave* the right to become children of God."<sup>17</sup>

According to the bible, all of us have a huge debt waiting for us. Each of the things we do wrong is like a line item on that bill or statement. Each and every wrong results in death.<sup>16</sup> "*For the wages of sin* (anything wrong that we do) *is death*"<sup>14</sup> The bible also tells us that God paid this bill for us.<sup>37</sup> In fact; He came to earth, became a human being<sup>38</sup> and went to the cross just for this purpose.

When Jesus died on the cross, His last words were what we translate into English as the words, "*It is finished.*" In the original Greek language the bible used, the word was a phrase which could also be translated, "It is paid" or "the debt is paid." According to my teachers, it was an accounting term used in Jesus' day like a date/time stamp denoting when a statement or bill had been "*Paid in Full.*"

That's what the bible tells us Jesus did for us in His death on the cross. He came to earth in order to die<sup>22</sup> so that He could pay the statement or bill (debt) we owe for what we've done wrong. He took our place so that we would never have to die<sup>23</sup> (so that we could live eternally after our physical death).<sup>24</sup> And He offers us a blank check to pay for that bill.<sup>8</sup> This is true no matter what we've done. It doesn't matter if we've done a little wrong, a moderate amount of wrong, or if we've been the worst person on earth.

This is what the bible teaches us we *must* do to escape the things to come<sup>25</sup> and find ourselves in heaven once the rapture occurs.<sup>26</sup> All we have to do to be *born again*<sup>13</sup> is reach out and accept, through honest prayer, the very extravagant gift Jesus offered us from the cross.<sup>27</sup>

Once we are born again,<sup>19</sup> our spiritual life doesn't end. We will continue to grow up in Him as we learn to live the way He showed us to live. Like a Father, He will lead us in how to grow up.<sup>20</sup> Growing up in Christ is an important part of walking with the Lord.<sup>21</sup>

God offers spiritual riches in Christ Jesus; His wealth given with love and concern straight from the heart of God. All we have to do is accept His gift of love.

The bible also teaches us we must accept Him as our *Lord*.<sup>28</sup> means making Him the '*boss of our lives*.' A rote repetition of words isn't what God's looking for. He's looking for an honest love, a true heart reaching out to accept His gift.

Once we receive that gift we are not "made perfect" (or matured) by what we ourselves do.<sup>31</sup> Rather, God helps us to become mature as we walk with Him.<sup>32</sup> Our life becomes a relationship with our Father, rather than simply a performance of good deeds.

If you will, ask for God's gift right now. Pray, asking Him in Jesus' name to help you understand how to receive in truth and with full understanding His gift of eternal life. There's no need to repeat any words I could give you. Your own words are far more important to God when it comes to your heart.

Do, however, ask for God's gift of eternal life<sup>33</sup> and let Jesus know you'd like Him to be Lord (boss) of your life.<sup>26</sup> Ask Him to send His Holy Spirit to live within you<sup>31</sup> and to help you grow to maturity as His child.<sup>30</sup> We all make mistakes as we grow, of course. Any child does. Even so, He offers each of us a blank check covering all failures. He's a generous Father<sup>34</sup> and a powerful Help<sup>35</sup> when it comes to such things.

He waits right now, ready to offer His gift of life eternal. Who wouldn't want such a gift?

## CHAPTER TWO

*On the Edge of Eternity*

When I began attending church at the age of 18, I didn't believe, and in fact made fun of, the idea that the world was close to the time of the rapture. I said what most people have been saying... until just recently. “Oh, sure; Jesus is coming soon. Since the beginning of time, everyone's been saying Jesus was about to come. They've been saying this since He left 2,000 years ago; yeah, sure.”

The person I was talking to told me my very statement was in the bible; and that my words were used as an example (and verification) of what people would be saying when the time came for Christ to rapture His people.<sup>1</sup> I said I didn't believe him. He gave me the chapter and verse. My words are there—almost word for word.<sup>2</sup>

We seem to be on the edge of eternity. Some people are saying the same words I said concerning what the bible says about the methods being prescribed today for identifying people all over the world. This method (which is already being used) allows people to buy and sell via an identification mark or chip which will access any part of your life, including your bank account.

The bible tells us that such a method will be mandated at some point just after the rapture. It says that without this mark, people will not be able to buy or sell.<sup>3</sup> The technology being used and developed further is called RFID (search: *human use of Radio Frequency Identification*). It's a mark on, or a chip to be implanted in, the hand. The words of warning against our taking or using this mark were given two thousand years ago; before any such technology could have entered anyone's mind.<sup>3</sup>

This identification method is the most frightening reality yet. It's more frightening than tornadoes, earthquakes or floods. The bible tells us the penalty for taking this mark, “without which we will not be able to buy or sell”<sup>3</sup> is hell itself.<sup>4</sup> So many things are about to happen that are specific to the times following Jesus' rapture of His people, that it's impossible for His return not to happen in the next few... years?



months? days? seconds?

For years I studied what authors and the bible had to say on the *Second Coming of Christ* and the *Rapture* (they are apparently different events). The *rapture* is the end of the Church Age when those of us who have truly believed<sup>12</sup> and received God's gift of eternal life will be taken up to be with the Lord in heaven, while the rest of the world experiences the *trouble (tribulation)* to come.<sup>5</sup> The *second coming* will be when those who have gone to heaven return to earth with Christ Jesus seven years later.<sup>13</sup> Jesus will then judge<sup>14</sup> and rule the earth for a thousand years, and then beyond those thousand years, as God creates a brand new earth.<sup>8</sup>

The truth is, today most people don't believe these things at all. Many people haven't taken the opportunity to study the books available on the subject. Others have read, but still don't believe we're on the edge of eternity. Some people, however, see the signs of the times. They know the things happening in our world today are downright biblical.

The question is... Do we have much to look forward to in life?

The answer is... Yes, absolutely, we do. We have something of great value to look forward to: the coming Kingdom of God.

Life in this world is a drop in the bucket when compared with eternity.

Our promise from God, once we receive His gift of life, is that we will live forever. Think it through with me, if you will. Never-ending years upon years upon years. Some people panic when such things are said. They feel like fainting with fear (or the prospect of boredom). They see the worst of this world and think 'why would I want to live forever?' It's true that living forever as things are in *this* world might not be all that wonderful. Life in God's world, however, will be. The Lord promises those of us who have received His gift of eternal life an eternity filled with love, peace, joy and the beautiful things in life;<sup>7</sup> a world without sorrow, sadness, pain or death.<sup>8</sup>

What if I offered the prospect that eternity may be a never ending

exploration of outer space (or the *new heavens*<sup>6</sup> once they’ve been created)? What about a never-ending time to get to know billions of different people and other creatures (like angels)? What about a never ending opportunity to explore the infinitesimal workings of the particle world? What about an opportunity to get to know God person to Person?

Have you seen some of the spectacular things in *this* world? The beauties of nature? Or the Hubble space photographs? [Search: *Hubble photos*, and then check out the NASA photo gallery. Or watch my music video on the subject located at [www.myspace.com/LowlyLily](http://www.myspace.com/LowlyLily).

With all the beauty He’s created, God’s heart has got to be gorgeous! His best has got to be better than the best this world has ever seen. If God is love itself,<sup>9</sup> and the Bible says that He is comprised of love, that He *is* love<sup>10</sup> what would it be like to sit down and talk with God about all the possibilities of what that could mean?<sup>11</sup>

If we’re on the edge of eternity, what will that eternity be like?

Maybe we’ll be playing harps. But then again, maybe we’ll be playing pianos, guitars, flutes or any other instrument we’d like to learn to play (or inventing those that haven’t yet been invented). Maybe we’ll have an opportunity to learn anything and everything we’ve never had a chance to learn in this world. Maybe we’ll receive lessons on a billion different subjects.

If we had all the time in eternity and a slew of teachers available on any subject we could imagine, what would we want to learn? What could we imagine doing with such an education?

Everlasting joy. Becoming part of an eternal and beautiful work of art. I’d give almost anything to be a part of something that spectacular. Wouldn’t anybody?

## CHAPTER THREE

*Trusting God in Everything*

God is trustworthy.<sup>1</sup> He's worth our trust. The bible tells us this. It also says His ways are far different than our ways.<sup>2</sup> He is substantially older than we are. Thus, His wisdom is substantially different, better, higher, wiser than ours.<sup>3</sup>

While God rarely does what we want Him to do when we want Him to do it, as some might define the word, He is still trustworthy. He can be trusted.

Many people see God in ways that are not realistic or biblical. They think He is a very difficult Person to please. Out of a sense of fear, they might want to get to know Him through His people rather than directly; or through what someone else has to say about Him. Some people would rather know about God than know Him personally. But this is not the basis of Christianity; a relationship with God is.

Jesus didn't just claim to be the Son of God. He<sup>4</sup> (and other people who knew Him<sup>5</sup>) claimed He was and is God Himself who came down from heaven and became a human being (flesh and blood) like us.<sup>5 & 6</sup>

Someday we will see Him face to face in the Person of Christ Jesus.<sup>7</sup> For the moment, however, God is invisible.<sup>8</sup> This can make it difficult to find Him. Finding the invisible God, however, is not impossible. The search for God can be a wonderful journey fraught with beautiful blessings as well as some problems. The problems God allows can be His way of discovering what we're truly made of (testing us<sup>9</sup>) or His way to help us increase our faith.<sup>10</sup>

When we have struggles and rely on God to help us through them our faith increases. And God's reality becomes more visible to the average person. Trusting God can require a kind of blind faith. It is blind because God is not (at least at this point) visible to our eyes, hearable with our ears, etc. The results of our 'blind' faith, however, *can be* visible. Answered prayer can be a visible thing. God's word (the bible) can lead to physical realities. When we find that what God says to do or

not do in the bible results in what He says it will—this reality can be a visible thing.

Prayer; reading the bible; asking God which part to read first and to help us understand it; and then listening (by seeing if something particular comes to mind, for instance); asking God to help us find the right book to read in a Christian bookstore; these things can result in being able to see God at work in our lives. They are important to the equation of faith.

As an example, I ask God for understanding as often as I possibly can. I ask for help in writing my songs, producing and composing them, finding my shoes, etc. He always answers my prayers. There are times when He doesn't seem to answer them, but those ‘unanswered’ prayers always turn out to be for a very good reason. I heard someone say recently, that God either answers our prayers with “Yes,” “No” (because it won't be good for us), “Wait” or “I've got a better idea.” As I've prayed, I've discovered that God's better ideas are always worthwhile. He's worth trusting. He's trustworthy.

In some ways, my life became harder after I became a Christian. I went through some tough *trials* as we call them. *Trials* could be defined as problems which result in good things, such as showing God our real motivations. The reality was, however, that even though I had problems, my inward joy increased substantially, especially over time and my practice of trusting God. I was happy, very happy, even if my life seemed harder in some ways.

This didn't make sense to some people. I had no reason to be as happy as I was. Nevertheless, I was. Today, I have many reasons for joy, and some reasons for not feeling joyful. Yet I am very happy and peaceful most of the time. The fruit of the Spirit (what God grows within us) is love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, self-control and faith.<sup>11</sup> These things are worth having, no matter how God achieves them in us. He's worth trusting. He's trustworthy.

God's wisdom is substantial. So are His power and ability. Relying on God during times of duress is a smart thing to do. Asking and being grateful for what God can give are very important aspects of trusting

Him. Reading the bible in order to find out what He's already said about us, our world, and what's about to happen here as well as in heaven is essential. The bible is filled with the wisdom of God.

I have a friend who read through the New Testament in two months her first time. Then she prayerfully began reading parts of the Old Testament and then the New Testament again, and then again, and again. She was so hungry for God, once she knew how to receive His gift of eternal life, and saw His reality and love, that she couldn't get enough of Him and His word. She also began praying for and telling her family about God in biblical ways.<sup>12</sup> As a result, most of her immediate family now loves God to one degree or another. And it's only been eight months!

No matter what's happening in our lives, we can make the choice to trust God. He's the best Person we could trust in any given situation. He loves us. He's powerful. And He wants us to ask Him, seek (and find Him), and knock on His door (which He will open).<sup>13</sup> He's a gentleman. He doesn't force Himself on us. But He does want us to love Him<sup>14</sup> and He does want us to give Him the opportunity to show us His power, ability and trustworthiness.<sup>15</sup>

When we ask, seek and knock on God's door<sup>14</sup> we will discover, sometimes immediately, how beautiful and trustworthy God is. The truth is, He's worthy of our trust not only for this life but for the life to come. The rewards of trusting God in every situation are eternally worthwhile.

## CHAPTER FOUR

*Defining our Purpose—God’s Reason for Creating Us*

There is a verse in scripture that tells us our purpose in life. It says that God’s reason for creating us is for us to bring pleasure to God.<sup>1</sup> God loves us. This is the most important concept a person could comprehend. No matter what has happened or is happening in our lives, God cares. He loves us tremendously. In fact, the cross is a representation of the degree to which He went in order to show us His love.<sup>2</sup>

I believe there is a way we can fulfill our life’s most compelling purpose. God draws near us when we draw near Him.<sup>3</sup> When we take delight in Him, He gives us the desires of our hearts.<sup>4</sup> The way we bring God pleasure (delight) and ourselves God’s favor is to love Him.<sup>5</sup>

Love is the most essential part of our spiritual lives.

When asked what the most important commandment was in scripture, Jesus’ answer could easily boil down to one word: Love. He said that the most important commandment was to love God with all we are.<sup>5</sup> The *second* most important commandment, He told us, was to love others as we love ourselves.<sup>6</sup> Jesus said, these two things created in us the impetus for being willing to do everything God had said to do.<sup>7</sup>

God *is* love.<sup>8</sup> It would make sense that a God comprised of love would enjoy those who love Him; that He would delight in requited love. When God’s love is returned, He finds great delight in us. Who wouldn’t love to be loved?

Are you surprised? Did you think God was a God of anger, wrath, indignation or perfectionism? No. The God of the bible is comprised of one thing alone: Love. But God does behave in angry ways sometimes; very angry. The truth is love can be chagrined. It can be unreturned; unrequited; it can even be spat upon, both figuratively and literally. God can have His feelings hurt, so to speak. He can also grow very upset when we harm His other kids. Wouldn’t any parent?

If we follow through on the thought that God is love and therefore



an emotional Being, we can assume that He has a heart. That heart just might feel a bit of anger, wrath or indignation. (What does the word indignation mean—without dignity?) How would a Being filled with love feel after He had been made fun of, treated with sarcasm, ignored, screamed at, or in some other ways had His face spat on over many millennia? How would we feel? His feelings (as anyone’s) would be hurt. He might just be a little angry with those who continued to spit in His loving face.

Will we choose then to appreciate and love Eternal Love? Or will we spit in Love’s face and say, “I don’t need or want You in my life!” If we say such a thing, we just may find Love (God) has departed from this earth (at the rapture).<sup>9</sup> When He does leave this earth, what would we be left with? This world is hard enough as it is. What would it be like without Love?

If God loves us and wants to be loved in return,<sup>5</sup> what does it mean to “love God with all our hearts (emotions), souls (choices) minds (thoughts), and strength (physical actions)” as Jesus told us was the most important thing we could do?<sup>5</sup> The answer is found in the parentheses.

There is a reason Jesus placed the first commandment first rather than second.<sup>6</sup> A natural process occurs with loving God first and others second. When we love someone, we’ll get to know them. When we get to know them, we discover what they enjoy most. When we discover what they enjoy most, we will care about those things or people that bring them joy.

God loves each of personally and all of us corporately. More than any other pleasure, He takes great delight in us when we return His love. When we love God, we will learn to love those whom He loves. We will discover that we, and the people around us, can bring Him great joy. And we will learn about, care about and love those people because *He* loves them. Loving others becomes a natural part of loving God.

On the other hand, loving others won’t necessarily produce in us a love for God. Jesus wanted us to grow in our love for God, who loves others, and by the natural process that occurs when we love Him, learn to love others as well. In addition, when love is required, it brings about

a sweet relationship; a healthy relationship. God is an individual. He’s a Person. He hopes in our love; because He loves us.

Fulfilling the most important commandment in the bible, and thus our purpose in life,<sup>1</sup> is to search for, love and thereby delight God with all we are. After 32 years of working toward loving God, I’ve discovered a wonderful thing. He’s worth loving, and how.

## CHAPTER FIVE

*The Definitive Chapter within the Bible on Love*

The most important chapter of the bible written on the subject of love is found in the New Testament book of 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13. It is a description of what God considers to be the evidence of real love. It is based on heartfelt attitudes and loving actions.

I learned a long time ago that love from the heart must translate into love in action. I also learned that without love from the heart, the actions of love are merely rote, mechanical; similar to prostitution if you will. The lady's (or man's) heart isn't in it. She (or he) may go through all the motions that make someone feel special, but it's not love.

At the same time, unexpressed love or love without loving action is a pleasure we alone experience. It offers no benefit to the recipient of our love. Actions and expressions of love do. Real love is both a feeling and a set of actions.

Unlike most of us human beings, God can look directly into our hearts and souls.<sup>1</sup> In fact, he searches the hearts and intents of the mind,<sup>2</sup> and He searches for those who will value Him.<sup>3</sup> One of the definitions of *worship*, according to the dictionary is *extreme love*. The archaic definition (in some ways its origin) is *worth-ship*, or valuing the object of our affection.

If 1 Corinthians 13 is the description of love, and love is God's very nature, then we would be able to describe God using these verses.<sup>4</sup>

Why don't we try it?

God is patient  
God is kind  
God is not envious  
He is not boastful  
He is not proud (*arrogant*)  
He is not rude  
God does not demand His own way

He is not irritable  
He keeps no record of being wronged  
He does not rejoice in injustice  
He rejoices whenever the truth wins out  
God never gives up  
He never loses faith  
He's always hopeful  
And He always endures

If Galatians Chapter 5, verse 22, is also a description of God, then we can do the same thing with this verse.

Let's try it:

God is loving  
God is joyful  
God is peaceful  
God is patient  
God is good  
God is humble  
God has self-control  
God is faithful

What a beautiful description of a wonderful Person! Wouldn't we all want to love a God like this? God also wants to be loved by us. I can't imagine a more beautiful God than that.

## CHAPTER SIX

*Life is a Gigantic School*

I have a friend who's never been to school. She was raised in a country where schooling was possible, but not mandatory. Her family was poor and her mother, and then the woman who took her in after her mother passed away, required her help.

She spent much of her young life looking over her sister's shoulder in order to grasp the concepts of reading until she learned, as her sister did her homework, how to read and write in her native language. But there was something in her heart that always wished she could have gone to school and learned the things we sometimes take for granted. She never had the opportunity.

But then again...

Her life was hard—very, very hard. And as she survived with her love intact, and while calling out to God for help, she learned plenty. She's now in life's post graduate school.

We are all in school in some way and at some point. Some of us are in preschool; others in elementary. Some have made it to Jr. High or High School; a few have made it to college. My friend, with all she has experienced in life, is very much a post graduate student. She's currently working on her PhD in Spiritual Reality. Me? I think I earned a double PhD in Religious Error before I knew Jesus in truth. I do believe I'm about to receive my PhD in Spiritual Truth

What stage of education in the School of Hard Knocks are we in? Are we in need of pampering? Have we only learned the basics? Are we currently working on understanding spiritual ‘calculus?’ Or are we about to receive a diploma or a doctorate degree?

Life is hard. Even if others think we have it made, some of us are in deep distress without much of a ‘cause.’ Many very famous and wealthy people are miserable despite all their toys, power, and fame or even being surrounded by adoring people. Some of us are happy despite

our poverty. An education at the best university in the world wouldn't necessarily provide what a street education might. Most of us in the U.S. are able to go to school. All of us, anywhere, go to the School of Life; at least for a short time.

I've never actually been to a graduate school. In fact, I've never taken more than couple of courses in college. Even so, I've learned some very valuable lessons here on this planet; and this planet seems to be made for such lessons.

How many classes, from preschool on, does it normally take to graduate with a doctorate degree—hundreds? How many painstaking hours—thousands? How many headaches? I know I couldn't count my own. Few of us truly enjoy learning. I know I had a hard time with it.

This life is a gigantic school. In the grand picture of eternity, something awaits us which we're only beginning to understand by the time we graduate. Our own personal *graduation day* will either be upon our departure from this earth in 'death' or upon our mutual departure from this earth at the rapture (if we're among those who make it to heaven at the rapture).

From the look of things, I believe some of us may see that day. What we do and how we respond to the Instructor in our School of Life (God Almighty), will determine what we are do for all eternity. Our responses will determine whether we receive a *job in God's corporation* doing something a little mundane or something absolutely spectacular. Everyone will have a life after graduation. Each of us in heaven will be doing something for all eternity.

To receive honor from God when we arrive in heaven, it's imperative to do things His way, no matter what grades other people give us in this world. A 4.0 average according to God might provide us with a failing grade with other people. That's okay. I'll take it. I'd rather succeed with God for eternity. I'd rather receive an excellent grade on life's ultimate Final Exam than on a midterm paper that won't matter much in the long run.

As I said earlier, this life, when compared with eternity, is a drop



in the bucket. Is \$1 in the hand really worth \$10,000,000 in the bush? This is what we’re looking at upon graduation from this world’s school. God’s stamp of approval (His A+) will last for eternity. Other people’s stamps of approval might last a few years. If I was a gambling woman, I’d say God’s smile is worth the risk of the frowns of others—any and/or all others if it takes that.

In life’s school, we have many choices. What electives are we choosing to take? Are we opting for easy electives that won’t matter much in the long run? Or are we choosing courses that will be valuable in eternity: *How to Love God* 101, 102; *How to Love Others* 101, 102; *How to Be Sure Jesus is My Lord* 101, 102; *How to Be a True Disciple* 101, 102, etc.

Are we ready for this earth’s Graduation Day? What have we made perfect by our practice? God is a truly just God.<sup>1</sup> He will not abandon anyone who trusts in Him,<sup>2</sup> no matter how we might be treated by anyone else in this world.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

*Graduation Day*

One day as I was preparing to make a music video that required a photograph of stars in the night sky, I typed into my search engine the words “photos of the stars” (as I recommended earlier). What came up was not what I expected. I anticipated photos taken from earth of what we see when we look up into the skies on a clear, dark night: a sweeping plethora of white sparkles.

To my great delight, what I found were Hubble space photographs. Oh my stars! Have you seen these things? Thousands of photographs are now available for our viewing. They are public domain photos made available through NASA and STScI. What an amazing sight they are to behold. Man oh man, “what is mankind that You (God) are mindful of (think about) us!”<sup>1</sup>

Believe me I created a music video using them.

The photographs of galaxy fields, nebulae and various other space anomalies are excruciatingly beautiful. Some of them are done in infrared photography which creates the affect of color where it doesn’t actually exist. I didn’t know this at first. Nonetheless, God’s creation is phenomenal; more so than anyone had ever thought before the invention of telescopes like the Hubble.

Then there’s the beauty of earthly nature. I’ve always been a mountain girl. My ex-husband and I spent much of our summers and some of our winter days and nights in the woods, on lakes, near rivers, and four-wheeling throughout the various areas available for such things. It was the most precious time I knew—away from city stresses and in the presence of God’s glorious nature. And glorious it is.

Today, we have access via internet, vehicle, horseback, hiking or plane travel to almost any part of the world, and apparently beyond. I have created music videos (most not published) based on photographs of places I’ve never actually seen. Some of these places are unbelievably stunning (some of them are not to be believed because they are digitally

enhanced). But I’ve personally seen purple, pink, yellow and white sunburst sunsets; and some of the most spectacular scenery I could describe.

God’s ability to create is unbelievable. His creation, it would seem, also gives us a clue as to the nature of His heart. If this world (which is only His ‘footstool’) and the heavens (which are only His ‘throne’)<sup>2</sup> are this spectacular, what on earth is His heart like? It’s a question I’d love to have Him answer for me. It’s something I want to know. He’s someone I want to know.

In addition to the grandeur of the earth below and the heavens above, there are the intricately beautiful workings within a person’s body,<sup>3</sup> the incredible design and complexity of an eye for example, or even a single cell. There are also the invisible and infinitely astonishing workings of atomic particles. Believe it or not, some scientists today tell us that quarks (sub-atomic particles) and their quanta are *intelligent!* They are participatory and interactive. The more we delve into particle science (with the little I personally know and have heard), the more amazing we find these worlds within worlds within our world.

What kind of God do we worship? Or not?

How could I not want to know this God?

In addition to the wonders of nature, we have the beauties of a meadow filled with wildflowers and pine trees, most of which are rarely, if ever, seen by human eyes; the scents of which are carried by the breezes probably for God’s own pleasure (or that of a fawn or fox).

God’s heart—as reflected in the sunsets, the mountains, the many varieties of flora and fauna, and the incredible beauty of the heavens, the particles, and each and every human being—is spectacular.

With all the beautiful things we can see and know in this world, the bible tells us that it hasn’t even entered our hearts and minds what He has prepared for those who love Him.<sup>4</sup>

Oh my heavens! Can you imagine what heaven will be like? No,

according to the bible, we can’t even imagine it!

This School of Life we’re in, the School of Hard Knocks, isn’t always pleasant. School often isn’t. It’s hard work. But the work is worth the dream job of an eternal lifetime in a place to beat all the corporations on earth combined. I, for one, want to work myself serious (rather than silly) to get the best degree I can in order to participate in an eternal life that is definitely worth living.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

*Thanksgiving in July*

I have a tradition each year on Thanksgiving Day. Sometimes, however, Thanksgiving comes in July (or June or August or April). My tradition is to write out a list of the many situations, things and people for whom I am grateful. Then, I pray through this list, thanking God for each item, each act of love, each individual.

What would you put down on your *Gratitude* or *Thanksgiving List*?

Your family?

Your best friend?

God Himself?

Your home?

Your car?

Your pets?

Your health?

Your life?

What other things, people or attitudes could you be grateful for?

My heart loves to feel gratitude. It wasn't always easy for me to be grateful. I had to work at it—hard. I had to find gratitude in my heart for myself. I had to find gratitude for the little bit of health I have (I have many physical problems). I've also had to practice apologizing to God for the horrible attitudes I've had.

I have a friend who thanks God for everything that goes *wrong* in her life, as well as what goes right. Her life has turned around partly because she's grateful for what God doesn't do for her as well as what He does do. She loves Him; and she'll take the bad with the good. Her example to me has been a wonderful part of my healing from bad attitudes.

Many of us find it hard to be thankful. Ungratefulness can be a damaging habit. It can create a heart of anxiety, agitation, anger, and

depression. I still have to work hard to fight off ungrateful attitudes. It takes my constant effort and practice. Creating a list of difficult things to be grateful for is one way to generate heartfelt gratitude no matter what’s happening in our lives. God may even turn our lives around as a result.

What would you put on a *Gratitude-For-Anything List*?

Do you have no food?

Do you have no job?

No money?

No home?

No car?

Do you have no loving family?

Are your friends (or enemies) unkind?

Every one of us has difficulties of some sort. Each of us could make such a list right now. We could list both the good things and difficult things we have gone through or are going through. We could thank God for all that is on our list.

Why thank Him for *all* things?<sup>1</sup> He loves us. And it’s part of our schooling. It’ll be worth it in the long run.



## CHAPTER NINE

*Practice Makes Perfect*

We all perfect whatever we practice. If we want to learn to play a musical instrument, for instance, we have to learn the hard way. We have to make everyone in the house agitated as we repeat, again and again, without any skill at first, the art in which we wish to achieve perfection.

Practice makes perfect... every single time.

What, then, are we practicing? Good? Evil? Making fun of people? Lying to them? Manipulation? Serving others in some way? Utilizing good character traits? Bad ones? Whatever we practice, that's what we will perfect.

If we practice lying, for instance, we will most likely become excellent liars. Everyone on earth may believe our lies. We may attain much; maybe even the ‘adoration’ of people. Would God be fooled by our lies? The Bible tells us He is not.<sup>1</sup> Will we attain accolades in the present world? Maybe. Will we attain things? Sometimes. Will we attain an eternally blessed state? The bible says we will not.<sup>2</sup> In fact it says whatever we give, we will receive back to ourselves in abundance.<sup>3</sup> It also tells us whatever we plant (whether good or evil), we will harvest (what goes around, comes around).<sup>4</sup>

Jesus told us to practice what He said to do (and thus make Him truly our Lord).<sup>5</sup> The things God told us to do can bring great blessing, especially eternally, but cannot be accomplished over night. They require learning how to do them; and having a motivation for doing them which creates within and around us the results God appreciates.

Achieving an outcome of heartfelt love for God (as well as love for others) requires developing the skill through perseverant practice. Biblical love is a habit we can cultivate. It is something we can achieve an excellence in via: listening to our Instructor God; reading His *how-to manual* (the bible); continuous repetition; and a lot of trial and error. No one can learn without making mistakes, but God is an excellent Teacher.<sup>6</sup> He will help us succeed when we ask Him.<sup>7</sup>

If we take steps in any particular direction, we will eventually arrive at the destination we are heading toward. Evil is a destination. Good is a destination. So is biblical love.

At first, we may not be able to love well. Probably not. Few people are born with the innate ability to do much of anything well. Most of us have to work hard to achieve anything of value. Internal qualities must also be developed. What we practice internally, we will also perfect.

God is a Person who appreciates the heart and mind of a man or woman.<sup>8</sup> He is not impressed with appearances as we often are.<sup>9</sup> Internal qualities are what He wants to accomplish in, for and with us.<sup>10</sup> Such things are not easy to attain. They sometimes require difficult and harsh circumstances.<sup>11</sup>

The bible tells us that trials (difficulties) create in us some rare and beautiful internal qualities.<sup>12</sup> They are the ‘gold refined in the fires’ of adversity.<sup>13</sup> We can become eternally rich via this internal gold.<sup>12</sup> But according to Revelation, Chapter 3, this internal gold must be purchased from God. It requires a cost.<sup>12</sup> Trouble is certain to come within this world.<sup>14</sup> Would any of us prefer our troubles went without reward? If there’s a purpose in them, wouldn’t we want to achieve that purpose?

Troubles in this life have a purpose. They produce a strong set of emotions. Those emotions can be honed to bring out in us the sweetest flavors, or bitter ones. It depends on how we practice responding.

Nothing we could own in this world will survive the final fires.<sup>15</sup> Only our hearts and the hearts of others will survive the end of this world system and the coming Tribulation. Even our bodies will be rebuilt to last forever.<sup>16</sup>

When the world comes to an ‘end’ (according to the bible it won’t completely end before we have a new one<sup>17</sup>), all that will remain of our lives is what we’ve become inwardly. We *will* have new eternal bodies, just like Jesus did following His resurrection.<sup>18</sup> Our heart, however, will be the most important part of what we’ve helped develop within our

lives.

We have the ability, right now, to practice perfecting the inward beauties God hopes we will attain and then pass on to others.<sup>10</sup> We also have been given the choice to practice perfecting the inward qualities God *doesn't* want us to achieve.<sup>20</sup> This would be a great waste of our once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

What will we choose to become? Which qualities will we perfect? Only those that are worthwhile are worth our time and effort.

If practice makes perfect, what are we perfecting in our lives? It's a question we will have to answer some day before the Lord Jesus.<sup>19</sup> What answer do we want to present before Him in that day?

We have the choice to make almost anything of our lives. We make the decisions and take the steps that lead us to our destination. Which destination will we choose?

## CHAPTER TEN

*We are Valuable to God*

What do we have to offer God that He would value most? According to the bible, He owns everything. What can we give God when He already owns it all? We can give Him ourselves. We can give Him our love. We can give Him our hearts, souls, minds and strength. We can give Him our past, our present and our future. We can give Him our honor, our respect, and our hopes and dreams.

These are gifts we have which God does not force us to give against our will. He has given us a choice in the matter; that choice is ours to grant or withhold. The most valuable offering we have to bring God is not found in our wallet or purse. It's found in our hearts.

God is more impressed with what we give Him from within ourselves than from our pocketbooks. Not that we can't give God such things as money. Jesus told us that wherever our treasures are, that is where our hearts will also be.<sup>1</sup> This same verse, however, tells us not to lay up treasures on earth, where moths eat and rust corrupts, but to lay up treasures in heaven.<sup>2</sup> This requires making important those things that will survive after the rapture: God's heart, other people's hearts and our own.

God is powerful enough to do anything He wants to do in and through us. We don't have to worry about the things He might need which we do not have the ability to give Him. What we can all give Him is our hearts. Our loving hearts are a gift God refuses to steal from us. He finds our hearts exquisitely beautiful. He loves them.

As I mentioned earlier, worship can mean extreme or very deep love. What would you do for someone you loved deeply? Would you give the person loving words, loving actions, respect, or friendship? Would you offer them the moon; or the world if you could?

What would God do for those He loved? What *did* He do? He did something very unusual. He died for our sakes (and then came back to life). He not only died, He died an excruciatingly painful death.

Have you seen the recent documentaries on the *Shroud of Turin*? Are you aware of what crucifixion does to a person’s body? It’s actually torturous. I won’t get into the graphic details. There are many books, websites, and at least one movie, which describe those details fully. I don’t want to look that fully at what happened. I want to look fully at *why* it happened.

Jesus backed up His claim of being God with incredible, visible miracles. His miracles were undeniable to those who saw Him. Yet those very people nailed Him to a cross. Their reasons were clear. He stated that He was God utilizing the verbiage common to His day.<sup>3</sup> As God the Son, Jesus was not a man who was victimized. He chose the cross.<sup>4</sup> According to the bible, that cross was planned “before the foundation of the earth.”<sup>5</sup> It was planned; on purpose.

Why would He do such a thing? Jesus (who was and is God in the flesh) did this to show us the extent of His love.<sup>6</sup> Before He died, Jesus told His followers, “there is no greater love than this: that a man should give his life for his friends.”<sup>7</sup>

How many people would give their own life for a friend? A few might. How many would give their life for their children, wife or husband? Some would. How many would give their life for an enemy? I don’t know of any. The Bible tells us that Jesus died for the very sake of those who were at *enmity with (enemies of)* God.<sup>8</sup> He died for us, not because we were particularly good, but while we were ‘yet sinners.’<sup>9</sup> How valuable are we to God? We are *that* valuable.

The Shroud of Turin (search: *Info on the Shroud of Turin*) seems to be substantial verification of Jesus’ death, manner of death, and resurrection. There are a couple of documentaries and several videos and books available on the authenticity of the Shroud. The Shroud (or burial cloth) located in Turin, Italy, holds a faint and supernatural photograph which seems to be that of Christ Jesus (most likely scorched into the upper layer of the inner part of the cloth as He was being resurrected).

It is not an image painted on the fabric, but a photo-like scorch (similar to that created by a laser image) with a higher level resolution

than current technology can duplicate. Its image was produced using a ‘technology’ we don’t yet have.

The Shroud shows the image of a man who has died. It reveals, accurately, how the man suffered at the time of His death. It also seems to verify Christ’s resurrection. It is said to be the burial cloth which covered Jesus Christ (spoken of in the Gospel of John, Chapter 20) handed down throughout the centuries.

The fabric holds the faint image (in a photographic negative) which has now been shown, via computer analysis and composite, to host an accurate three dimensional image of the body and face of a man who has been whipped by a Roman scourge,<sup>10</sup> beaten severely,<sup>11</sup> had multiple cut wounds to his head,<sup>12</sup> and a spear thrust through his side and into his heart.<sup>13</sup> Forensics specialists and scientists of nearly every appropriate kind have examined this cloth. The Shroud very accurately portrays crucifixion.

There are at least two documentaries and a couple of DVDs on the Shroud (to my knowledge). Searching: Videos of the Shroud of Turin will bring up some links. It’s an incredible piece of cloth. At this point, scientists may have discovered, via computer composite taken from the shroud, what Jesus actually looked like.

Someday, each of us will have the opportunity to see the Lord Jesus face to face.<sup>14</sup> Only He will judge the outcome of that event. So much evidence is available to us human beings down here on this planet that God is real and that His Son will be a visible view of the Heart of God.

How valuable is God to us? How valuable do we want to be to Him? How valuable were we 2,000 years ago? How much more valuable could we be? He died an excruciating death (and was resurrected) so that we could be in heaven with Him for eternity. That’s how valuable we are to God.



## CONCLUSION

### *Passionate Compassion—Pass It On*

Learning to love God and others requires a certain amount of honest, heartfelt compassion. The art of being able to notice, feel, understand and respond to someone else’s state of emotion, is a beautiful work.

God’s heart is filled with compassion.<sup>1</sup> He knows what it’s like for us to have to wander through this world<sup>2</sup> in search of meaning and a hope and a future.<sup>3</sup> He knows because He was tempted in all ways like we are; yet without doing anything wrong,<sup>4</sup> God has gone through many of the things we have.<sup>5</sup> He’s done this through His flesh and blood, Christ Jesus.<sup>6</sup>

Developing and perfecting deep and real compassion is a difficult endeavor. We have to lay aside our own needs and problems and focus on what’s happening to others or within the heart of God, putting first things first.

God wants to produce compassion in us. He wants us to love Him. He also wants us to love and hold compassion for other people; animals; and the earth we’ve been given. He gave a slew of instructions on how to compassionately care for Him and other people. Even the fields planted with various crops held the merciful love and compassion of God’s heart.

Such a compassionate God, it would follow, cares about whom we are becoming and what we are choosing to do now in order to prepare for what we will do in eternity. He cares, because He loves us.

Someday, God will rule our lives through Jesus His Son. The Lord Jesus will be the ultimate world ruler; the King of kings and Lord of lords,<sup>7</sup> as the bible says. He will offer us a world as yet unparalleled.<sup>8</sup> A world where “the lion will lie down with the lamb; the child will play at the viper’s hole; lions will eat grass like the ox; and nothing will harm in all [His] holy mountain (His world).”<sup>9</sup>

He will offer us a chance to live a life without struggle.<sup>9</sup>

Today, that’s not the case. Struggle abounds. And the trouble to come (the Tribulation) has just begun. Today, we have to struggle to find God among the many varying opinions about God. And most of us have to bear with some very difficult realities.

Don’t give up. Help other people not to give up if you can. This life of trouble is worth the life to come. Read what God said in His word (the bible) and pray, asking God for all you need in Jesus’ name.<sup>10</sup> He hears such prayers<sup>11</sup> and will honor your concern for what He has said. God loves you.<sup>12</sup> Deeply, from the heart and filled with passionate compassion.

He numbers (counts) the very hairs on our heads.<sup>13</sup> And He cares when a sparrow falls to the ground. How much more does He care for us?<sup>13</sup>

With all we have, it’s time to open up our hearts and receive what God has to offer us in Jesus’ name. The Lord Jesus is about to rapture His people; and when He does, He will bring with Him either beautiful realities, or very great trouble.

Love Him, pray and listen. If we do, I think we’ll discover His compassion is awesome; and that God Himself is wonderful. Love is spectacular. God is a God of deep, real, unselfish, and compassionate love.

Check Him out. He’s worth the time, effort, communication, and practice it takes to get to know Him. He’s a great Friend; and an excellent Father.<sup>14</sup>

Love—passionate compassion—is worth all that we could ever go through in this life.

This life is very short when compared with eternity. Don’t give up in your search. God is there. Just do your best and call on Him in Jesus’ name. Read the New Testament as quickly as you can. Pray, asking God to give you His gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. And then make

Him your Lord (the boss of your life).

God Himself will show you *His* way to love Him; His way to find Him, quickly, before the world crumbles.

PS: You are invited to copy, send or print this book (in its entirety and without modification only) and give it to your friends.

## FOOTNOTES (Bible References)

### Introduction

1. John 14:13 – 14; John 16:26
2. 2 Timothy 3:16

### Chapter One

1. Matthew 24:8  
Mark 13:8  
Luke 21:25-28
2. Matthew 24:21
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:17
4. Matthew 24:3
5. Matthew 24:36 and  
Mark 13:32
6. 2 Timothy 3:1 and  
2 Peter 3:3
7. Romans 3:23  
Romans 6:23  
Ephesians 2:8-9  
Romans 10:10  
Titus 3:5  
John 1:12-13  
John 3:3-8  
Revelation 3:20
8. 1 Corinthians 3:13-15
9. Romans 3:25  
1 John 2:2 (in the back of the  
New Testament)  
1 John 4:10
- 10.2 Corinthians 5:21
11. John 14:6
12. Daniel 12:2  
Matthew 7:13
13. Matthew 5:22
- 14.1 John 5:12
15. John 3:3-8
16. Romans 6:23
17. Titus 3:5
18. Ephesians 2:8-9
19. John 1:12-13

- 20.1 Peter 2:2
21. Philippians 2:13
- 22.1 Peter 1:19-20
23. John 11:25-26
- 24.1 Corinthians 15:51-55
25. Luke 21:36
- 26.1 Thessalonians 4:17
27. John 19:30
28. Romans 10:10
29. Matthew 7:21-27
30. James 2:19-20
31. Galatians 3:3
32. Galatians 5:22  
Jude 1:24
33. Luke 11:13
34. James 1:17
35. Psalm 46:1
36. *Rapture* is taken from the Latin  
for "caught up"
- 37.1 John 2:2
38. John 1:1-4 & John 1:14

### Chapter Two

1. 1 Thessalonians 4:17
2. 2 Peter 3:3-4
3. Revelation 13:16-18
4. Revelation 19:20
5. Revelation 4:1  
2 Peter 3:13
6. Revelation 21:18-21
7. Revelation 21:4
8. 1 John 4:8
9. 1 John 4:16
- 10.1 Corinthians 13:4-7
11. Matthew 7:21-28
12. Luke 17:34-35  
1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
13. Matthew 24 & 25:31-46

## Chapter Three

1. Psalm 111:7
2. Isaiah 55:8-9
3. Isaiah 11:2
4. John 8:58  
John 5:18
5. John 1:1-4 & 14  
John 20:28  
Colossians 1:15
6. Hebrews 4:15
7. Philippians 2:10  
John 5:22-27
8. Colossians 1:15
9. Proverbs 17:3  
2 Chronicles 16:9
- 10.1 Peter 1:7
11. Galatians 5:22
- 12.1 Peter 3:1-2  
John 6:44
13. Luke 11:9-13
14. Matthew 22:37  
Mark 12:30  
Luke 10:27
15. Psalm 34:8  
Psalm 37:7  
Psalm 46:10

## Chapter Seven

1. Psalm 8:4  
Psalm 144:3  
Hebrews 2:6
2. Isaiah 66:1
3. Psalm 139
4. 1 Corinthians 2:9

## Chapter Eight

1. Ephesians 5:20

## Chapter Nine

## Chapter Four

1. Revelation 4:11
2. John 15:13  
1 Thessalonians 5:10  
Romans 5:8
3. James 4:8
4. Psalm 37:4
5. Mark 12:30
6. Matthew 22:39
7. Matthew 22:40
8. 1 John 4:8  
1 John 4:16
9. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

## Chapter Five

1. 1 Samuel 16:7
2. Hebrews 4:12
3. Psalm 14:2  
Psalm 53:2
4. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

## Chapter Six

1. Psalm 9:16
2. Psalm 91:14  
Isaiah 49:23
1. Proverbs 19:5
2. Proverbs 19:9
3. Luke 6:38
4. Galatians 6:7
5. Matthew 7:21-28
6. Matthew 23:8-9
7. Luke 11:9-13
8. Deuteronomy 6:4-5
9. 1 Samuel 16:7
10. Galatians 5:22
11. Romans 5:3-4
12. Daniel 12:10  
Revelation 3:15-18
13. John 15:3

Romans 5:3-5  
 14. John 16:33  
 15.1 Corinthians 3:12-15  
 16.1 Corinthians 15:53  
 17. Revelation 21:1  
 18. Matthew 28:9-10  
 19. John 5:22 and 5:27  
 20. Galatians 5:19-20

8. Revelation 21  
 9. Isaiah 65:25  
 10. John 14:13  
 11. John 14:14  
 12.1 John 4:7-10  
 13. Luke 12:6  
 14. John 1:12-13

## Chapter Ten

1. Matthew 6:20  
 2. Matthew 6:19  
 3. John 8:58  
 4. John 10:18  
 5. 1 Corinthians 2:7-8  
 6. Ephesians 3:18  
 7. John 15:13  
 8. Ephesians 2:16  
    James 4:4  
 9. Romans 5:8  
 10. John 19:1  
 11. Matthew 27:30  
    Mark 15:19  
 12. John 19:2  
 13. John 19:34  
 14. Philippians 2:10

## Conclusion

1. Exodus 34:5  
    Matthew 9:36  
 2. Matthew 4  
 3. Jeremiah 29:11-13  
 4. Hebrews 4:14-16  
 5. Hebrews 4:14-16  
    Matthew 8:24  
    Matthew 8:20  
    Luke 9:58  
 6. John 1:1-4 and 1:14  
 7. Revelation 1:5